

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USSS-00 HA-05 SY-05
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 489
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY ROME

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/ CI, PGOV, SHUM
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION: RECENT PRESS
ITEMS

1. THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF LETELIER CASE SPECULATION IN RECENT
WEEKS HAS BEEN THE DELIVERY DATE FOR THE EXTRADITION REQUESTS
FOR CONTRERAS, ESPINOZA AND FERNANDEZ. NEWSPAPERS THE PAST
WEEKEND HAD THE REQUESTS ALREADY HERE. A RUMOR OF SEPTEMBER 8
SAID THE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE ARRIVING IN INSTALLMENTS. TO
CLEAR THE AIR, USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY TOLD THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 9 IT WAS LIKELY THRE REQUESTS WOULD ARRIVE
IN SANTIAGO ABOUT SEPTEMBER 12, AND BE DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN
OFFICE SEPTEMBER 20.

2. A NEWS REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES SEPTEMBER 12 SAID THAT
GENERAL HECTOR OROZCO (THE MILITARY JUDGE FOR THE LETELIER
INVESTIGATION HERE) HAD TRANSITTED BUENOS AIRES ENROUTE TO
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ASUNCION. WHEN ASKED THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP, OROZCO RE-
PORTEDLY SAID "IT IS BETTER NOT KNOWN." GOC-OWNED "EL
CRONISTA" THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13, ATTEMPTS TO SET
THE RECORD STRAIGHT BY SAYING THAT OROZCO IS IN PARAGUAY
AT THE INVITATION OF HIGH MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

3. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, JOSE MIGUEL

BARROS IS BACK IN SANTIAGO FOR CONSULTATION ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS SEPTEMBER 12, HE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THERE ARE PERSONS HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF US/CHILEAN RELATIONS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. HE SAID THAT THE LETELIER CASE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE COURTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT THE QUESTION OF EXTRADITION IS A DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCHES NOT THE EXECUTIVE.

4. A WIRE STORY FROM ROME, REPORTED HERE, SAYS THAT TOWNLEY HAS ADMITTED INVOLVEMENT OF DINA IN THE 1975 ATTACK ON BERNARDO LEIGHTON AND HIS WIFE. "LA SEGUNDA" OF SEPTEMBER 13 SAYS THAT MICHAEL TOWNLEY CALLED ITS OFFICE AT 1325 HOURS TODAY AND DENIED EVERY HAVING MADE SUCH STATEMENTS TO ANY NEWSMEN.

5. "LA SEGUNDA" OF SEPTEMBER 12 SPECULATED THAT DEPUTY US ATTORNEYS EUGENE PROPPER AND LAWRENCE BARCELLA MIGHT BE RETURNING TO SANTIAGO SOON. A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE VISIT MIGHT COME SOMETIME AFTER SEPTEMBER 20.

6. THE ANSWERS TO THE LETTERS ROGATORY ISSUED BY A CHILEAN COURT IN THE CASE OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY'S EXPULSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COURT. MICHAEL TOWNLEY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCAL LAWYER SAID SEPTEMBER 7 THAT HE IS CONSIDERING REQUESTING THE ARREST OF VARIOUS UNNAMED PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THAT EXPULSION.
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